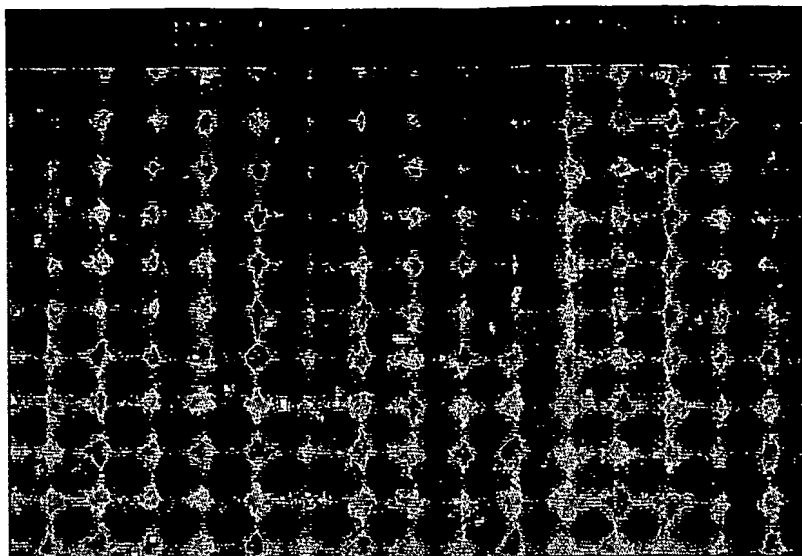
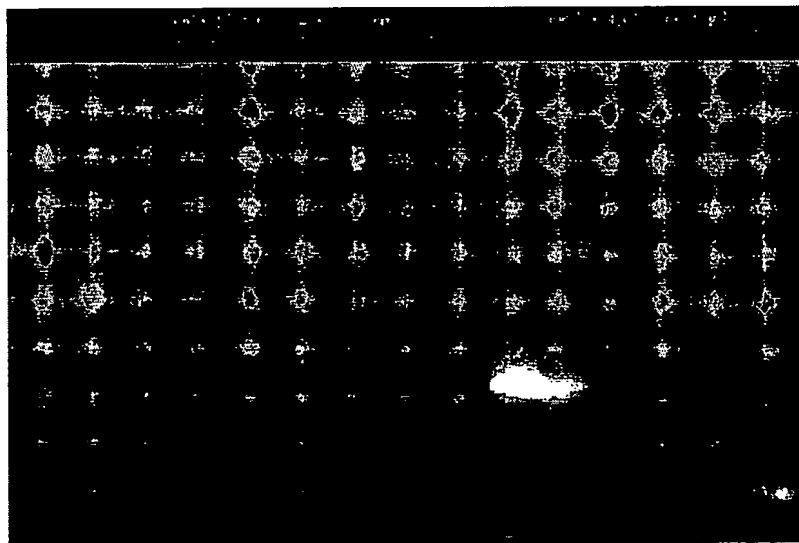


(a)  $\times 1.0K$ 

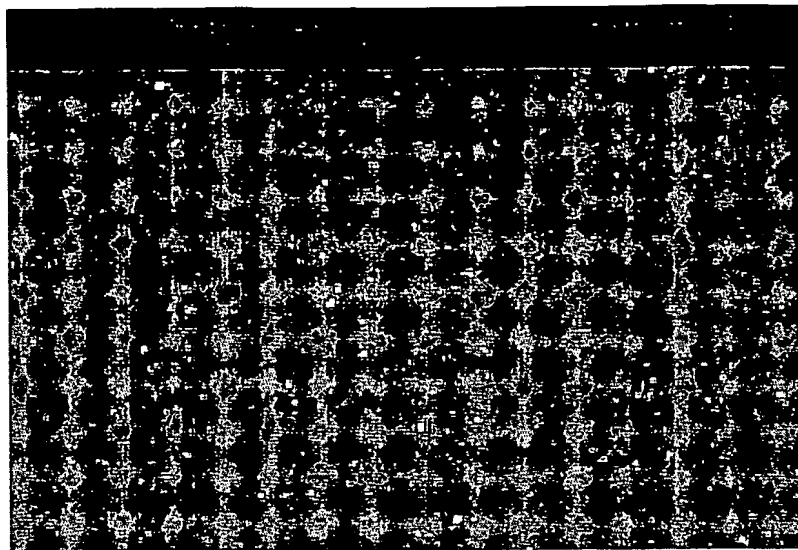
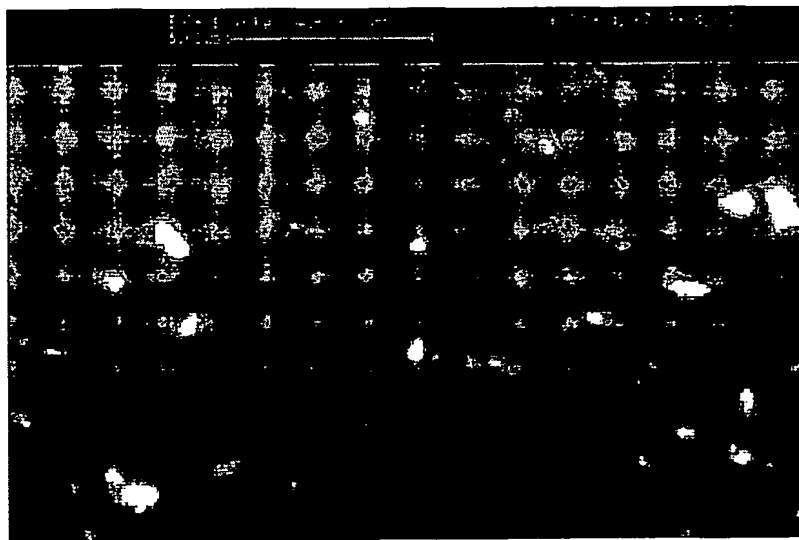
BEST AVAILABLE COPY

(b)  $\times 6.0K$ 

5

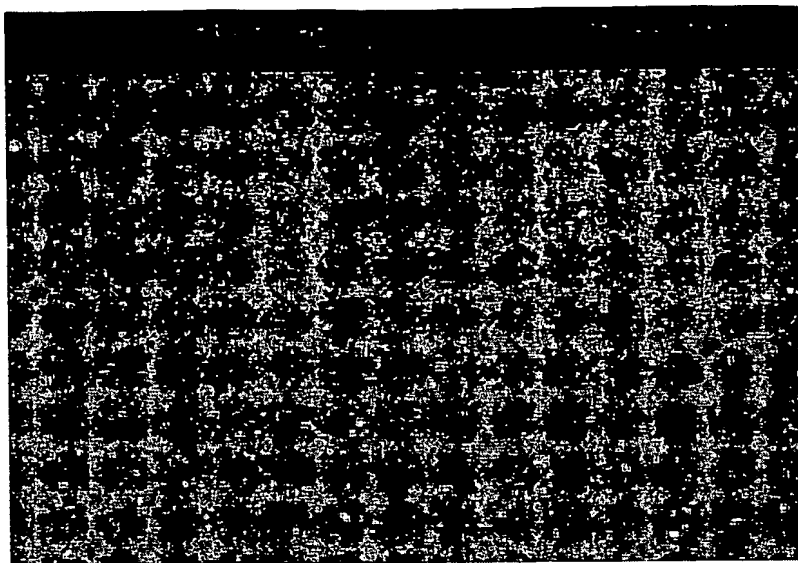
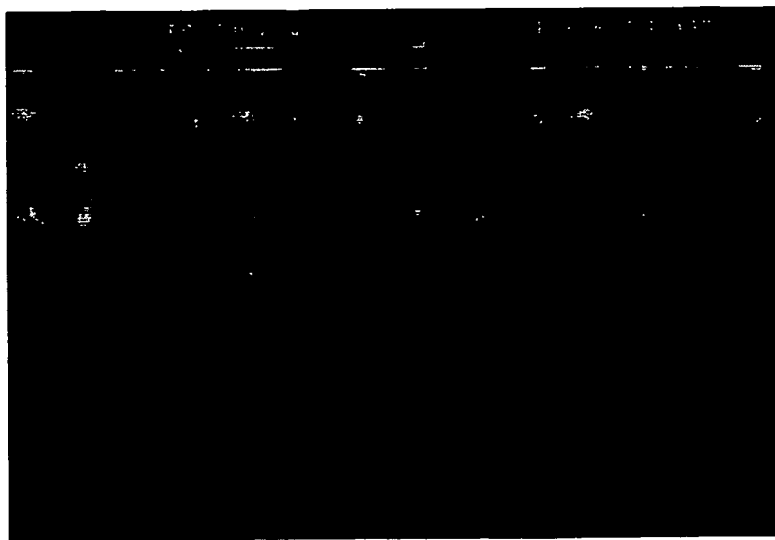
**Figure 1:** SEM micrograph of the surface of polyurethane containing 6.1wt% alumina prepared via the solvent method.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

(a)  $\times 1.0K$ 5 (b)  $\times 6.0K$ 

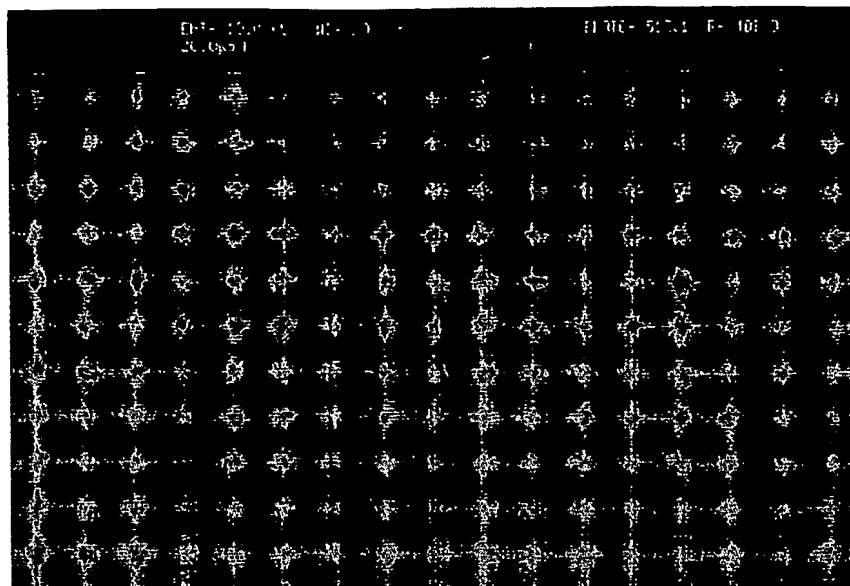
**Figure 2:** SEM micrograph of the surface of polyurethane containing 6.1wt% SiC prepared via the solvent method.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

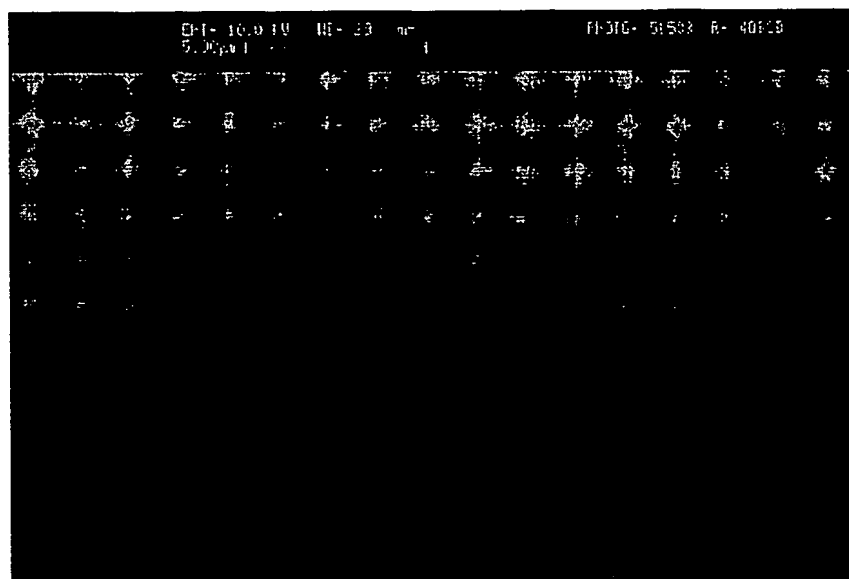
(a)  $\times 1.0K$ 5 (b)  $\times 6.0K$ 

**Figure 3:** SEM micrograph of the surface of polyurethane containing 20.5 % SiC prepared via the solvent method.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

(a)  $\times 2.0K$ (b)  $\times 5.0K$ 

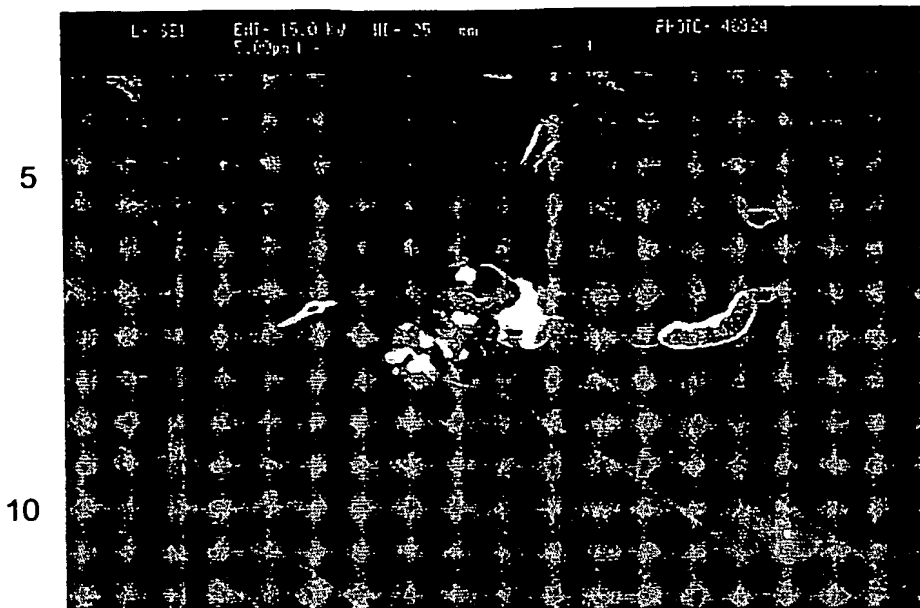
5



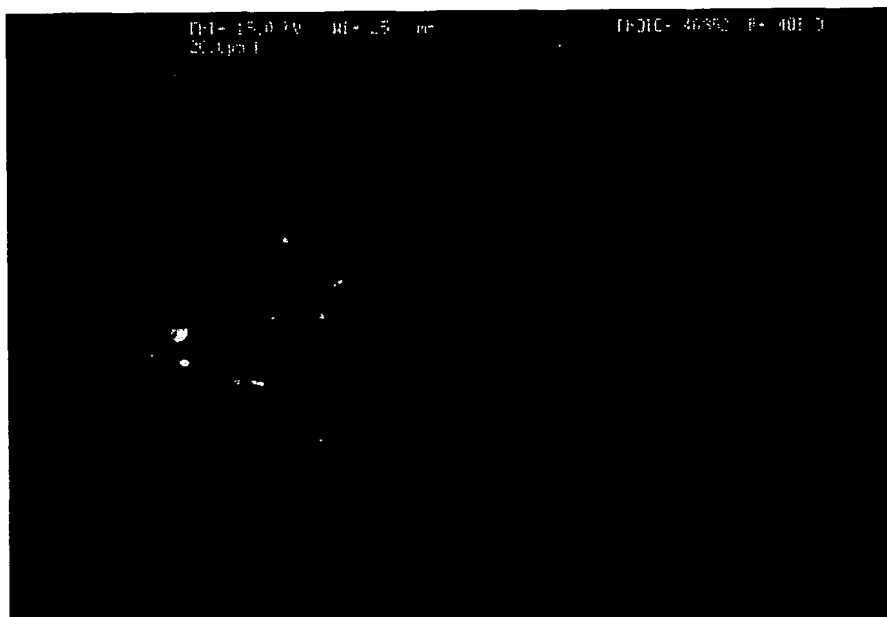
**Figure 4:** SEM micrograph of the surface of polyurethane containing 1.3wt% alumina prepared via the non-solvent method.

Illustration of poor dispersion:

BEST AVAILABLE COPY



**Figure 5:** Secondary emission scanning electron micrograph of poorly dispersed alumina particles. In centre is an agglomerate  $3\mu\text{m}$  in size composed of agglomerated  $0.72\mu\text{m}$  particles.



**Figure 6:** Secondary emission scanning electron micrograph of poorly dispersed alumina particles. In centre is an agglomerate  $20\mu\text{m}$  in size composed of agglomerated  $0.72\mu\text{m}$  particles.